

REMARKS

§101 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being directed to an improper method claim. With the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to indicate that a processor constructs an account code based on segment based account code structure and dimensioned based data. As such, the method of claim 1 is tied to another statutory class and as such represents statutory subject matter.

§112 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as being indefinite.

In particular, claim 1 was rejected for omitting essential elements because claim 1 did not include a step of retrieving or entering an input before selecting dimension-based accounting data. With the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to add a step of accessing a dimension-based accounting database that defines multiple dimensions.

Claim 1 was further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 because the step of defining an order for dimensions in the set of dimension could not be performed unless the claim recited two or more dimensions. With the present Amendment, Applicants changed the phrase “a set of dimensions” to “a plurality of dimensions” to clarify that the set of dimensions included multiple dimensions.

Claim 1 was also rejected as being written passively because it used the word “to” and the Examiner interpreted the use of the word “to” as directing the claim to an intended use/result. Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the use of the word “to” in the claim.

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected because the singular/plural relationship between the terms was unclear and that it was not clear whether one account code was being constructed or a plurality of account codes was being constructed. Applicants have amended claim 1 and have cancelled claim 8 to make it clear that a processor is constructing a plurality of account codes.

Claims 2-6 and 8 were rejected for using terms such as “using....”, “if” and “to” which were said to raise a question as to the limiting effect of the subsequent language in the

claim. Applicants have amended each of the independent claims to eliminate the terms objected to by the Examiner.

§102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Minnis (US Patent Publication 2004/0230508).

CLAIMS 1-7, 22 AND 23

With the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Support for these amendments can be found on page 11, line 24 through page 13, line 10 and page 24, line 5 to page 25, line 16.

As amended, claim 1 is not shown or suggested in Minnis. In particular, Minnis does not show or suggest a processor constructing an account code by retrieving a dimension value from a dimension column in a table for each dimension in a plurality of selected dimensions and placing the values from the dimension columns in the order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code.

In the Office Action, it was asserted that Minnis shows identifying dimension values from an entry in dimension-based data and combining the identified dimension-based values based on an account code structure to construct an account code in the Abstract and paragraphs [0013], [0072], [0074], [0075], [0090], [0093], [0104], [0105], [0119], [0120], [0122], [0123], [0124], [0153] and [0157]. However, the cited sections of Minnis do not show or suggest retrieving a dimension value from a dimension column in a table for each dimension in a plurality of selected dimensions and placing the values from the dimension columns in the order defined by an account code structure.

The Abstract of Minnis describes rules that are used to determine which accounts are to be included in a report. The Abstract makes no mention of constructing an account code based on dimension values from a dimension column in a table.

Paragraph [0013] of Minnis describes a need for a system to enable a user to define, customize, and preview a financial statement structure. There is no mention of constructing an account code by placing values from dimension columns in a table in an order defined by a segment based account code structure.

Paragraphs [0072], [0074], and [0075] describes an account code, account number, and an account segment. The paragraphs make no mention of constructing an account code by placing values from dimension columns in a table in an order defined by a segment-based account code structure.

Paragraph [0090] of Minnis describes a transaction code. There is no mention in paragraph [0090] of retrieving values for a dimension from dimension columns or placing such values in an order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code.

Paragraph [0093] discusses a visual chart organizer that enables a user to create and build any number of financial statement generation templates. The rule base allows the user to set a rule to select a list of accounts to be included within the financial statement. There is no mention in paragraph [0093] of searching a table in a dimension-based accounting database having a separate dimension column for each dimension in a plurality of dimensions or retrieving dimension values from such a table which are then placed in an order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code.

Paragraph [0104] describes a new account page that allows the user to create a new account. A user may enter a new account number by typing the number in, or selecting an available account number after accessing an account code segment lookup table or an account number lookup table. Paragraph [0104] does not indicate that a table is searched that comprises a separate dimension column for each dimension in a plurality of selected dimensions or that an account code is constructed by placing values from the dimension columns in an order defined by a segment based account code.

Paragraph [0105] of Minnis discusses an attribute sub-page for an account. It makes no mention of searching a table in a dimension-based accounting database comprising a separate dimension column for each column in a plurality of selected dimensions and it does not show or suggest placing the values from such dimension columns in an order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code.

Paragraph [0119] of Minnis discusses an account setup page where a user is able to define an account code structure. Paragraph [0119] does not show or suggest searching a table in a dimension-based accounting database that comprises a separate dimension column for each dimension in a plurality of selected dimensions or retrieving dimension values from the respected dimension columns in the table or placing the values from the dimension columns in an order defined by a segment based account code structure to construct an account code.

Paragraph [0120] of Minnis discusses assigning various account codes ranges to standard account categories including assets, liabilities, net assets, revenue, expense, gift, transfer, gain, and loss. Paragraph [0120] does not show or suggest searching a table in a dimension-based accounting database comprising a separate dimension column for each dimension in a plurality of dimensions or retrieving a dimension value from a respective dimension column in the table or of placing the values from the dimension columns in an order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code.

Paragraph [0122] discusses a default descriptions link that allows a user to create default descriptions for any account created by the user or created automatically by the system and the length of fields used to contain the default description. Paragraph [0122] does not show or suggest searching a table in a dimension-based accounting database comprising a separate dimension column for each dimension in a plurality of selected dimensions or retrieving a dimension value from such a table or placing the retrieved values from the dimension columns in an order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code.

Paragraph [0123] discusses an account code setup main page where a user is able to define attributes for a particular account. Paragraph [0123] does not mention searching a table comprising a separate dimension column for each dimension in a plurality of selected dimensions, retrieving a dimension value from the table, or using the retrieved values to construct an account code.

Paragraph [0124] of Minnis discusses a transaction code setup page that allows a user to define a plurality of transaction codes. Paragraph [0124] does not show or suggest searching a table comprising a separate dimension column for each dimension in a plurality of selected

dimensions, or retrieving a dimension value from a respective dimension column in such a table, or placing the values from the dimension columns in an order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code.

Paragraph [0153] of Minnis shows a method of setting up an account for use that includes defining what account segments will be included in an account number, the length of each account segment and whether any separators will be used between the segments. Paragraph [0153] also discusses assigning account code ranges to particular account categories. Paragraph [0153] does not show or suggest searching a table comprising a separate dimension column for each dimension in a plurality of selected dimensions, retrieving a dimension value from a respective dimension column in a table, or placing the values of the dimension columns in an order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code.

Paragraph [0157] of Minnis describes associating a range of permissible account codes to a detail line in a financial report. The paragraph does not show or suggest searching a table containing a separate dimension column for each dimension in a plurality of selected dimensions or retrieving a dimension value from a respective dimension column in the table or placing the values from the dimension columns in an order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code.

Since none of the cited sections of Minnis show or suggest searching a table in a dimension-based accounting database comprising a separate dimension column for each dimension in a plurality of selected dimensions and since none of the cited art show or suggest retrieving a dimension value from a respective dimension column in such a table for each dimension in a plurality of selected dimensions and since none of the cited references show or suggest placing the retrieved values from the columns in the order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code, Minnis does not show or suggest the invention of claim 1 or claims 2-7, 22 and 23 which depend therefrom.

Claim 3 is additionally patentable over Minnis. In claim 3, validating a value associated with a dimension comprises determining whether the value includes a character other than a

number that is not valid in an account code. Minnis does not show or suggest determining whether a value includes a character other than a number that is not valid in an account code.

Claim 22 is also additionally patentable over Minnis. In particular, Minnis does not show or suggest searching a database table having a column containing identifiers for a plurality of companies and locating rows that contain an identifier for a selected company. Instead, Minnis shows a system that is designed to be used with only a single company at a time.

Claim 23 is also additionally patentable over Minnis. In particular, Minnis does not show or suggest searching a data dimension length table for a row containing an identifier for a selected company and a dimension for a retrieved value. Further, Minnis does not show or suggest determining whether the number of characters in a retrieved value exceeds a retrieved maximum length that is retrieved from the row containing the identifier for the selected company and the dimension for the retrieved value. As noted above, Minnis does not contemplate multiple companies using the same database and as such does not include an identifier of a selected company in its tables.

CLAIM 24

With the present Amendment, new claim 24 has been added. New claim 24 is not shown or suggested in Minnis. In particular, Minnis does not show or suggest searching a table in a dimension-based database comprising a column for each dimension in a plurality of dimensions and at least one balance column for rows in the table that have a value in the at least one balance column. Further, Minnis does not show or suggest retrieving a dimension value from a dimension column in the table for each dimension in the plurality of dimensions or placing the values from the dimension columns in an order defined by a segment-based account code structure to construct an account code. As such, claim 24 is patentable over Minnis.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, claims 1-7, and 22-24 are in form for allowance.
Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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